

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **January 30, 2003**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Okabe.

Okabe describes an electrical connector having a number of electrical wire housings (31). Each electrical wire housing (31) has a pair of umbrella-like resilient pieces (41) that hold a wire (3) in place.

The present invention is an electrical connector and terminal in which projections (5) are utilized to hold a wire (40) in a connector housing (1). The projections (5) are flexible and enable the insertion of the wire (40) with minimal force.

Okabe does not describe the umbrella-like resilient pieces (41) being straight rectangular projections located at the top open end of the terminal housing and directly opposed to one another.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

"An electrical connector comprising; a connector housing including a terminal receiving section, wherein the connector housing is provided on both side walls of a rear portion of the terminal receiving section with a pair of straight rectangular projections located at a top open side of the connector housing, projecting inwardly directly opposite to each other from the terminal receiving section, for holding an electric wire; and a terminal having an electrical contact portion at one end thereof for connecting to a mating terminal and an electric wire joint portion at the other end

for joining to an electric wire, wherein the terminal receiving section has an extra room for allowing said electrical contact portion to move, wherein the electrical contact portion and the electric wire joint portion are connected by means of a flexible connecting part. " (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Okabe is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

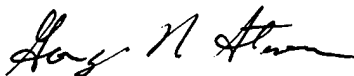
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 1 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 09/973,463

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An electrical connector comprising;

a connector housing including a terminal receiving section, wherein the connector housing is provided on both side walls of a rear portion of the terminal receiving section with a pair of straight rectangular projections located at a top open side of the connector housing, projecting inwardly directly opposite to each other from the terminal receiving section, for holding an electric wire; and

a terminal having an electrical contact portion at one end thereof for connecting to a mating terminal and an electric wire joint portion at the other end for joining to an electric wire, wherein the terminal receiving section has an extra room for allowing said electrical contact portion to move, wherein the electrical contact portion and the electric wire joint portion are connected by means of a flexible connecting part.